

23. (Amended) In combination with a textile machine, the improvement comprising an air distributor assembly for air conditioning the textile machine, the air distributor assembly comprising:

- (a) an air inlet adapted for communicating with a source of conditioning air flow;
- (b) a first air distribution component downstream of said inlet for slowing the flow of conditioned air through said distributor assembly;
- (c) a second air distribution component spaced-apart from said first air distribution component and defining an air outlet downstream of said inlet to further slow the flow of conditioned air outwardly through said distributor assembly and in a direction of the textile machine; and
- (d) wherein said first and second air distribution components cooperate to distribute the conditioned air flow to the textile machine in stages so as to form a downwardly directed displacement-type flow towards threads in the textile machine, said displacement-type flow being a non-turbulent, uniform flow over a cross-sectional profile of the flow.

REMARKS

Claims 1-23 in the case are pending. Claims 1-19 have been allowed. Claims 20-23 have been rejected based on the "recapture" doctrine. Claims 20-23 have also been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Caille.

With regard to the rejection based on the "recapture" doctrine, Applicant maintains

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that this doctrine is inapplicable to the original Claims 20-23 for the reasons stated in the response dated November 22, 1999. Nevertheless, in the interest of expediting prosecution of this application, the claims have been amended as provided above to include the limitations "downwardly directed" with respect to the displacement-type air flow, and that this flow is directed "towards threads of the textile machine." The rejection based on the recapture doctrine is now considered moot.

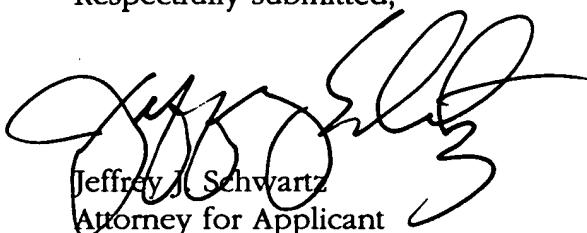
With regard to the prior art, Applicant submits that the amended Claims 20-23 clearly define over the air distributing channel disclosed in Caille. According to Caille, an air flow with very low pressure and speed is produced by creating turbulence in a series of turbulence spaces. See Figures 1 and 2; col. 3, ln. 67-col. 4, ln. 36. This disclosure in fact *teaches away* from the claimed "non-turbulent, uniform flow" of the present invention. Moreover, Caille specifies the direction of flow as being longitudinal with respect to the air channel (col. 4, lns. 36-41), whereas the claimed invention creates a downwardly directed flow. Claim 5 has been amended to correct an typographical error occurring in the original patent.

For all of the reasons discussed above, Applicant submits that all of the claims in the case are now in condition for allowance. Such action is therefore requested at an early date. If the examiner believes that issues remain for discussion, he is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

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Respectfully submitted,


Jeffrey J. Schwartz
Attorney for Applicant
Registration No. 37,532

Jeffrey J. Schwartz
ADAMS, SCHWARTZ & EVANS, P.A.
(formerly Adams Law Firm, P.A.)
2180 Two First Union Center
Charlotte, North Carolina 28282
Tel.: (704) 375-9249
Fax: (704) 375-0729
e-mail: jjs@adamspat.com
Attorney File No. 1267/13

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